

object of restoring a monarchy under which the Church, and particularly its monks, would have been all powerful.

Soon after " Lourdes " was finished Zola turned to " Borne," which necessitated a great deal of study. He was immersed in it when there came an incident fraught with grave future consequences for France. An artillery captain named Alfred Dreyfus, attached to the General Staff of the army, was arrested on a charge of communicating military secrets to the German embassy. The arrest took place on October 15, 1894, but did not become known until the end of the month, when it was divulged by two newspapers, " La Libre Parole " and " L'Eclair." Zola gave little or no heed to it, for quitting his books and papers he was at that very moment preparing for a visit to Rome, which he had projected for some time past. About the middle of October he had told Vizeteliy, who was then with him at Medan, that he 'had some hope the Pope would receive him, and that he certainly intended to apply for an audience. Vizeteliy gave publicity to this statement, which was quoted on all sides. But almost immediately afterwards, Vizeteliy having returned to England, Zola on talking the matter over with some friends found that no audience with the Pope was possible. The reason was simple enough. "Lourdes," "La Faute de l'Abbé Mouret," and several other volumes of his writings —

just like the
novels of Dumas *pkre*, that " accursed G-
aribaldian " — were
in the "Index," and accordingly, before even
applying for an
audience, he would have to withdraw and
annihilate those
books so far as lay in his power, and make a
full submis-
sion to Holy Church.

Such were the facts. A little
investigation of the sub-